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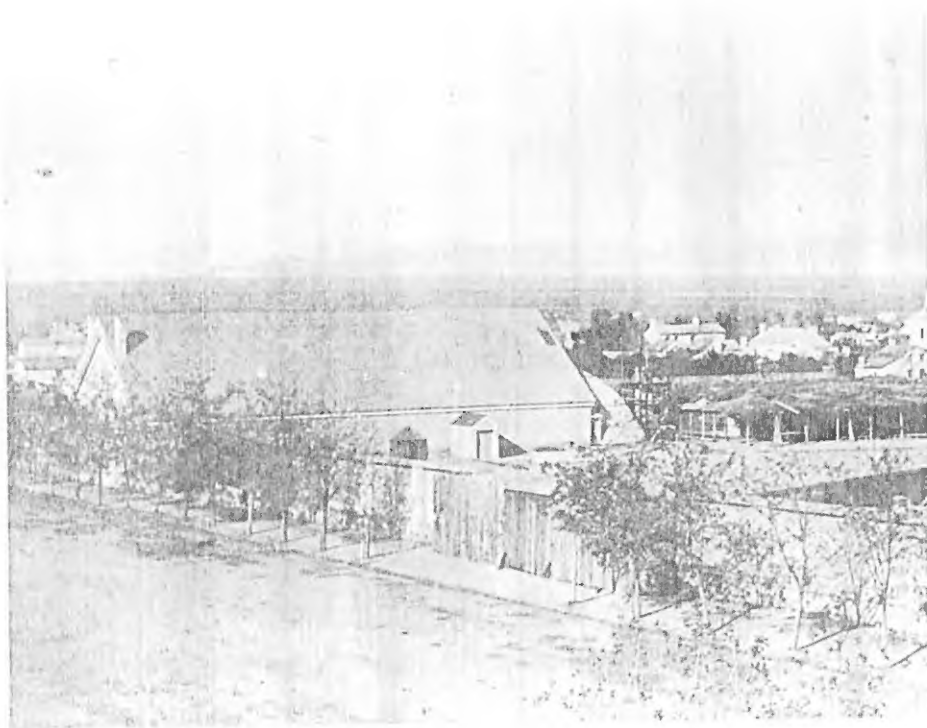


Henry Grow (1817–91), a millwright and bridge builder, joined the Church in 1842. He was responsible for constructing the trusses of the dome of the Tabernacle.



Joseph Harris Ridges (1827–1914), builder of the Tabernacle organ, was born and reared near an organ factory in England. His curiosity about how organs were built proved a blessing to the Church. Brother Ridges was converted to the gospel in Australia in 1850, then came to Utah.

When the Tabernacle opened, the organ was only one third complete. It was finished in 1877 with 2,638 pipes. Through the years the organ has been rebuilt, electrified, and enlarged to 10,814 pipes.



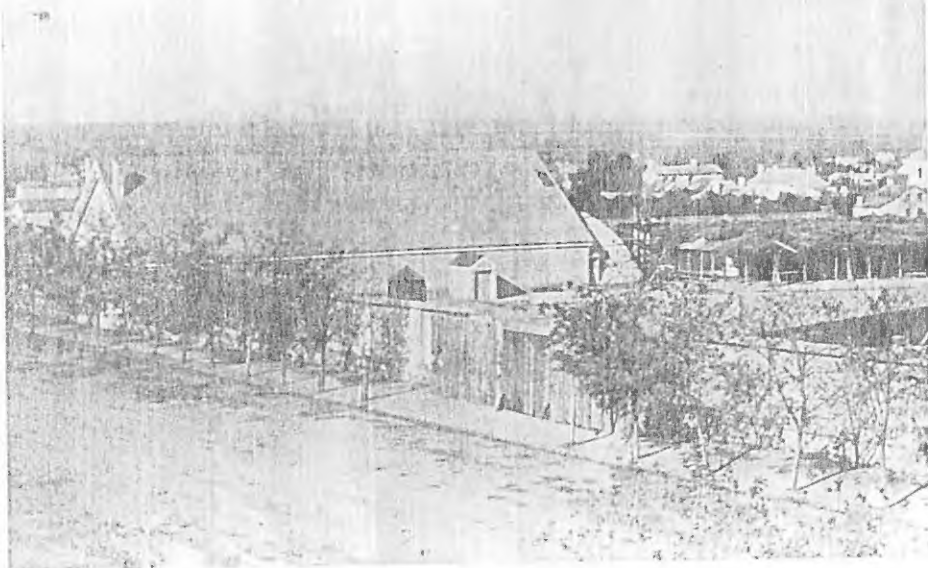
Believing that the Saints could be strengthened spiritually if they had an adequate building where they could be called together and instructed by their leaders, President Young began planning for such a structure. Following several council meetings, a pattern for a great dome-shaped house of worship stamped itself vividly upon the mind of President Young. To make this vision a reality, he called to his office Henry Grow, who was a master mechanic as well as an experienced millwright. Brigham Young had recently watched Elder Grow complete a wooden arch bridge over the Jordan River—a rather unusual structure having no center supports, sustained wholly by fitting together wooden triangles and arches. President Young felt that it was just such a continuous bridge, or set of wooden bridges, that he needed to support the roof of the spacious, dome-shaped edifice that he had in mind.

With the assistance of architect William H. Folsom, President Young and Henry Grow worked out tentative architectural plans for the proposed pioneer Tabernacle, one of the largest buildings of its kind in the world—150 feet wide, 250 feet long, and 80 feet high, on the outside. The most novel part was that the massive ceiling was to be "bridged over," without supporting pillars. Since some Saints doubted and others questioned the feasibility of such a high dome-shaped roof, President Young supervised the construction of a model tabernacle, which answered the Saints' questions. Construction of the Tabernacle commenced during the spring of 1863.

By the fall of 1867 the Tabernacle and its famed organ were completed sufficiently to be used at the October conference. The organ and other inside

—From "Church History in the Fulness of Time"

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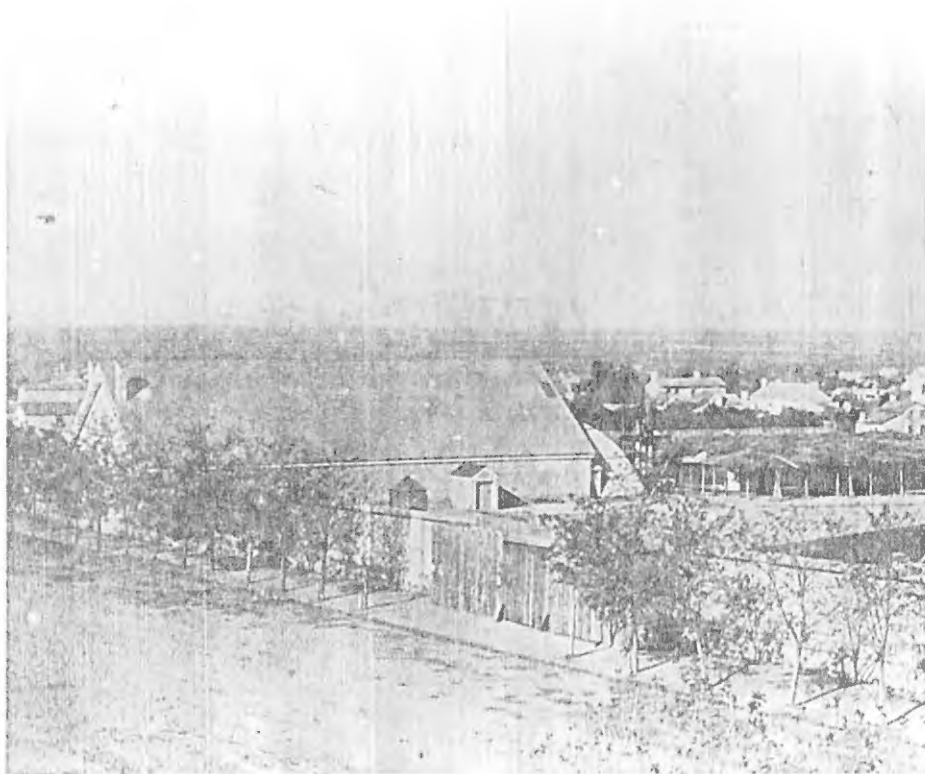
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